



www.winpowerwest.com

EXHIBIT 4
DATE 02/13/13
HB 394

February 12, 2013

To the Representatives of the State of Montana,

I am writing in support of HB 394, a bill that would allow commercial or residential utility customers in malls, apartment buildings, condos, low income housing, or military housing to subscribe to the output from a single renewable energy system that would be installed on the premise for the purpose of net metering.

This bill has several benefits: (1) it provides these utility customers the ability to choose to participate in net metering by investing their own capital where that is not currently available; (2) by expanding the ability to net meter to a whole class of utility customers who are currently unable to participate, systems will be built that generate more jobs for renewable energy companies, concrete workers, electricians, and other contractors; (3) larger, multi-user facilities generate cost savings for this class of net metering customers because of economies of scale, thereby reducing the cost to participate in a net metering system, which in turn leads to a lower cost of power for those participants; and (4) those jobs that are generated mean greater employment in the state, an expanded tax base for the state, and revenues that stay in the state and are re-circulated many times over with the businesses and people that call Montana home.

This bill makes sense. The cost to the state is zero, yet the state realizes many economic health-giving benefits, and businesses and individuals are given the right to choose to invest their own capital to produce their own power locally.

I urge all of you to support a bill that is good for Montana and Montana People.

Regards, and in thanks for your dedication,

Ben Reed, Owner
Winpower West



February 11, 2013

Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee
Montana 63rd Legislature
Keith Regier, Chair

Dear Senator Regier and committee members:

Please accept this letter in lieu of my personal testimony on HB 394. Homeword is committed to providing safe, healthy, affordable housing using sustainable methods and promoting strong communities through housing counseling and education for those most in need. We've developed affordable housing with sustainability in mind for 18 years across the state of Montana. We concentrate on energy conservation via the building envelope through added insulation, good quality windows and doors, building orientation and Energy Star rated appliances. If the project budget allows it, we include solar array installation which we've done on five (5) of the nine (9) multi-family properties under our ownership and a 10th being completed now. We build with sustainability in mind for conservation reasons as well as for financial benefit to our low income residents.

HB 394 is an important next step in the development of our alternative energy economy in Montana. By allowing utility customers to subscribe to a single aggregated solar array system it allows customers to share cost of installation and share in the benefit of energy produced from the system. It allows access to affordable energy and reduces the threat of spiking energy usage and bills. We understand HB 394 would define eligible customers as those who live or do business under one roof. As multi-family housing developers and owners, this bill would allow us a mechanism to share the solar benefit with our residents who have separate accounts with the utility company which currently we're unable to do. The utility would obtain a list of account holders and figure the proportion of energy benefit in an aggregated system, and bill accordingly. This is an affordable way to generate energy on-site, close to the use of that energy; thus reducing cost of transmission as well as reducing load demand and concerns of transporting energy via the grid from alternative sources that can vary (wind speeds, amount of sunlight, etc).

We're in a crucial time in our history in terms of energy consumption and production. Let's work together to conserve energy, reduce load demand requirements on existing utilities and delay developing costly energy generation plants that contribute to our carbon footprint. This is the low hanging fruit. This kind of flexibility in our laws will encourage Montana to be even more self-sufficient.

Thank you for your consideration of this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Andrea Davis
Executive Director



Oasis Montana Inc.

436 Red Fox Lane

Stevensville, MT 59870 U.S.A.

Fax: 406 777-0830 Local Line: 406 777-4309 or 4321

Toll-free 877-627-4768 or 4778

Web Page: <http://www.oasismontana.com/>

E-Mail: info@oasismontana.com

RE: HB394 (vote yes for aggregate net metering!)

12th February, 2013

ATTN: House Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications Committee

The renewable energy industry has been a bright spot in the generally flagging U.S. economy; tens of thousands of people are employed by solar companies, and 2012 saw the largest number of photovoltaic power installations ever in this country.

Yet Montana is behind the times. Montana energy users are missing an opportunity to build and invest in locally-controlled, clean energy systems. HB394 would allow utility customers (who share a parcel of land, or a condo, apartment building, mall or shopping plaza) to subscribe to a single solar array (or wind generator, hydro turbine on the premises). This would allow those customers to reap the benefits of clean power, and cut installation costs (since the dollar-per-watt installation cost decreases with larger systems) as well as keep more of our energy money in this state.

It would also provide more job opportunities for companies like mine.

I hope you will vote yes for HB394. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Chris Daum
Oasis Montana Inc.



Official Safety Statement of the Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

The Montana Renewable Energy Association is dedicated to expanding the use of renewable energy across the state of Montana. Greater adoption of renewable energy technologies by the public requires a well-trained workforce; without trained individuals using best practices in the field to produce code-compliant installations, renewable energy systems are bound to perform poorly and/or become a hazard to the property and its occupants. Of equal importance is the need for this workforce to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety regulations for the construction industry. Non-compliance with OSHA safety standards on the jobsite can result in business-ending fines, life-altering injuries, and even death – all of which represent a step backward for the renewable energy industry and the broader adoption of its technologies. For these reasons, in late 2007 the MREA created a Safety Committee, and its first accomplishment was to establish a strategic partnership with local OSHA officials in order to provide MREA members with the best information on safety available for the development of their internal safety programs. Additionally, in conjunction with NorthWestern Energy officials, the MREA Safety Committee worked to establish an annual series of safety trainings held at various locations around the state, free of charge and open to all Montana renewable energy installers.

Vested in safety as the MREA is, the organization and its Board of Directors expects each of its member companies to seek regular safety training in the areas of the four major occupational hazards as defined by OSHA: falls, electrical shock, caught-by/in-between, and struck-by hazards. First aid and CPR training is also expected of MREA member companies so that they are fully prepared to respond to an accident. Further, the MREA and its Board of Directors expects all of its member companies to comply with OSHA safety standards and regulations while performing work in the field, which includes the use of OSHA-certified personal protective equipment such as roof anchors, ropes, and harnesses for fall protection and gloves and eyewear for protection from electrical shocks and arc-flash burns.

Lastly, since MREA member companies are expected to represent the organization as one that is committed to safety by complying with OSHA safety standards in the field, it follows that MREA members are to publish only OSHA-compliant installation photographs to the web, newspapers, magazines, and other public media. It is of critical importance to the MREA and its Board of Directors that the public perception of MREA member companies is one of great respect for their commitment to excellence not only in the areas of work quality and customer service, but also, and most importantly, safety.

Should member companies or their employees demonstrate non-compliance with this Safety Statement, they may receive a written warning from the organization's Board of Directors. Continued acts of non-compliance by a member company may lead the Board of Directors to revoke its membership, as authorized by the bylaws of the organization.

Adopted September 27, 2012 by the MREA Board of Directors

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